



AGREEMENT OF FEDERAL AGENCIES ON ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



July 14, 1994

WHEREAS, the National Performance Review under the direction of the Vice President has called upon Federal agencies to develop cross-agency ecosystem planning and management; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay is a readily accessible example of ecosystem management carried out by a partnership of State and Federal agencies engaged in the integrated management of the waters, the air, the living resources, and human dimensions of the landscapes of the Bay Region, all with the common goal of restoring the Chesapeake watershed to a healthy ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, this partnership is embodied in the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement, signed by the States of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the Federal Government, which reaffirms the commitments of all parties "to restore and protect the ecological integrity, productivity and beneficial uses of the Chesapeake Bay system;" and

WHEREAS, the thirteen Federal agencies which have signed formal agreements to be part of the Chesapeake Bay Program manage public lands, support state implementation through cooperative programs, and bring a broad range of expertise in land, water, air, and living resource management to the restoration effort, and believe the Bay partnership can provide even greater opportunities to achieve ecosystem-based planning and management; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Program is a national leader in the use of sound science to set clear goals and to measure progress in such areas as reductions in nutrient and

toxic loadings to the Bay and its tributaries, the recovery of underwater grasses, and the removal of blockages to migratory fish; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Agencies Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program has supported these efforts through, among other actions, the establishment of Work Groups on Nutrient Reduction and Habitat Restoration, which have initiated a program of nutrient and habitat assessments of major Federal facilities in the Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, the President, in a Memorandum of April 26, 1994, for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, has directed agencies to adopt environmentally and economically beneficial practices on Federal landscaped grounds, which practices are in many cases similar to those already being proposed in the facility assessments being undertaken by the Chesapeake Bay Federal Agencies Committee; and

WHEREAS, toxic emissions and releases from private industry to the Chesapeake Bay have been reduced by over 50% in five years, and the President, in Executive Order #12856 has recently called for a similar 50% reduction in toxic releases from Federal facilities by 1999, along with progress reporting to begin July 1, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the President with the support of Congress, has established the Corporation for National and Community Service under the National and Community Service Trust Act, under which the National Civilian Community Corps has established its first Operations and Training Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, on the Chesapeake.

Now, therefore, we, the undersigned representatives of the participating Federal agencies, commit ourselves to managing the Chesapeake Bay watershed as a cohesive ecosystem, and recommit to working together and with the states and other parties to achieve the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. Specifically, we agree to:

- partnership** ♦ work to bring all our programs into the partnership for Chesapeake Bay ecosystem management, and to urge other Federal agencies to become participants with us, where appropriate;
- research** ♦ coordinate our research agendas in consultation with the Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, to address priority management needs for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay; initially including the role of atmospheric deposition in nutrient and toxic pollution of the Bay and the impact on the natural system (NOAA lead);
- data coordination** ♦ establish a Work Group under the Federal Agencies Committee to assess and evaluate existing ecological resource inventories used by Federal agencies, and to make recommendations to improve coordination,

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